Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said dosage is administered once per day.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 26 wherein said NK lymphocyte cytotoxicity is measured at an effector to target cell ratio from about 15:1 to about 50:1.

13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said non-resectable malignant tumor is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, brain cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, renal cancer, and melanoma.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said non-resectable malignant tumor is a melanoma.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said non-resectable malignant tumor is a renal carcinoma.

23-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for stimulating the immune system of a human patient having a non-resectable malignant tumor, said method comprising

a) determining the natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity of said patient to provide a baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity;

b) administering an immunostimulatory dosage of an α-interferon composition to said patient, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage ~~is about 250,000 U/m^2 to about 500,000 U/m^2 per day~~ increases NK lymphocyte cytotoxicity at least about 75% above said baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity; and

c) treating said patient with effective non-surgical medical methodologies to diminish said tumor.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for stimulating the immune system of a human patient having a resectable malignant tumor, said method comprising:

a) determining the natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity of said patient to provide a baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity;

b) administering an immunostimulatory dosage of an α-interferon composition to said patient, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage ~~is about 250,000 U/m^2 to about 500,000 U/m^2 per day~~ increases natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity at least about 75% above said baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity; and

c) surgically resecting said malignant tumor.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, said method further comprising administering said immunostimulatory dosage for about five days prior to resecting said malignant tumor.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said dosage is administered once per day.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said NK lymphocyte cytotoxicity is measured at an effector to target cell ratio from about 15:1 to about 50:1.

33-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said malignant tumor is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, brain cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, renal cancer, and melanoma.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said malignant tumor is an early-stage solid tumor.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said malignant tumor is a melanoma.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said malignant tumor is a renal carcinoma.

39-40. (Canceled)

41. (New) A method for stimulating the immune system of a human patient, said method comprising:

a) administering an immunostimulatory dosage of an α-interferon composition to said patient, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage is about 250,000 U/m^2 to about 500,000 U/m^2 per day;

b) determining whether the natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity of said patient is increased at least about 75% above a baseline level of natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity in said patient; and

c) administering to said patient an adjusted immunostimulatory dosage of said α-

interferon composition if said natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity is not at least about 75% above said baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising repeating steps (b) and (c) until said natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity is at least about 75% above said baseline level of natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising administering subsequent dosages of said α-interferon composition to said patient, wherein said subsequent dosages are:

a) said immunostimulatory dosage if said immunostimulatory dosage results in natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity that is at least about 75% above said baseline; or

b) an adjusted immunostimulatory dosage that results in natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity that is at least about 75% above said baseline,

wherein said subsequent dosages are administered once per day.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said patient has a malignant tumor.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said malignant tumor is resectable.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising surgically resecting said malignant tumor after administering α-interferon to said patient at a dose that increases said natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity at least about 75% above said baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said malignant tumor is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, brain cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, renal cancer, and melanoma.

48. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said malignant tumor is an early-stage solid tumor.

49. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said malignant tumor is a melanoma.

50. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said malignant tumor is a renal carcinoma.

51. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said malignant tumor is non-resectable.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising treating said patient with effective non-surgical medical methodologies to diminish said tumor after administering α-interferon to said patient at a dose that increases said natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity at least about 75% above said baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity.

53. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said non-resectable malignant tumor is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, brain cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, renal cancer, and melanoma.

54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said non-resectable malignant tumor is a melanoma.

55. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said non-resectable malignant tumor is a renal carcinoma.

56. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said NK lymphocyte cytotoxicity is measured at an effector to target cell ratio from about 15:1 to about 50:1.